श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय: मान्यवर, जो नेशनल हैरल्ड का अखबार है, उसकी स्थापना पंडित जवाहरलाल नेहरू ने की थी और उन्होंने कहा था—"फ्रीडम इज इन पिरिल, डिफेंड इट विद आल युवर माइट" । यह उस अखबार में भी बराबर लिखा रहता था अंग्रेजों के जमाने में । उसके बाद प्रधान मंत्री जी के पिता स्वर्गीय फीरोज गांधी उसके प्रबंधक रहे।

श्रीमन्, उसके तीन अखबार हैं—नैशनल हैरल्ड, नवजीवन हिन्दी में और कौमी आवाज उर्दू में । नवजीवन और कौमी आवाज लखनऊ से प्रकाशित होते हैं किन्तु उनका भी प्रकाशन बंद हो गया है । मेरा मंत्री जी से प्रश्न यह है कि नेशनल हैरल्ड, नवजीवन और कौमी आवाज के जो कर्मचारी वहां से निकाले जा रहे हैं उनको अविलंब वापस लेने और उनको चालू करने के लिए क्या कर रहे हैं ?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: T share the concern of the hon. Member that they should not be thrown out ʳt is because of this interest that, as I hive said, I myself had a meeting with *the* hon. Minister of UP. and today they are having a meeting and trying to resolve the dispute.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question. Question No. 186. Shri Kalayanasundaram. Absent. Question No. 187. Absent. Question No. 188. Shri Nirmal Chatter-jee.

♦186. *[The Questioner (Shri M-Kalyanasundaram) was absent for answer* vide *cotL... infra]*.

*187. *[The Questioners (Shri Sheo Kumar Mishra and Kapil Verma) were absent for answer* vide *col.... infra]*

Excise duty cuts for small scale sector

*188. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH;

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: \

Will the Minister of FINANCE *he* pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Industry has proposed excise duty

fThe Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Nirmal Chatter-je».

cuts for the small-scale sector in order to improve th_e competitiveness of their products both at home and abroad;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to reduce the excise duty; and

(c) whether such cuts will be on all items or on some selected item?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): A statement has been laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) The Ministry $_0$f Industry, as part of their recommendations relating to fiscal concessions, for the small-scale sector, had proposed liberalisation of the exemption scheme for small units. The Government, after taking into account the recommendations of the Ministry of Industry and the representations received from the small-scale sector, have already increased the limit for excise duty exemption for the small-scale units. It is not proposed to reduce the e^{xc}'se duty any further for the small-scale units.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Is it estate duty or excise duty?

SHRT NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: It is excise duty. Since you are alive, it cannot be estate duty.

Sir, my question i_s to what extent these concessions to the small-scale sector go to the MRTP and FERA companies?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Sir, these concessions are meant for small scale units, not for FERA companies or MRTP companies.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Is there a ban on MRTP companies having a unit which i_s in the small scale sector?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI; There i_s no ban for any individual or any company. If they are coming under a small scale unit, the benefit will be available to them also.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE; There for_e I asked th_e question. Tlw answer is not there. He has denied it. What is the

benefit derived from the concessions to the small-scale sector by the MRTP and FERA companies?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: I have answered that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Nirmal Chaiter-jee, the answer of the Minister is that if any unit is registered as a small sacle unit irrespective of who registered it, it is entitled to the concessions. That is the law on the subject.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: I wanted information, Sir. I know that and, therefore, I wanted information as ta what extent these benefits are flowing to thai MRTP sector and FERA sector. That is my question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Have you got the information?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: No information is available, Sir.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE; Sir, since the Government is aware that these concessions to the small-scale sector are liable to be abused by the MRTP and FERA companies, is the Government thinking of plugging this loophole bo that th:.~ may not be utilized by them and, if i; is thinking so, what measures do they propose to adopt?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI. Sir, these benefits have been given for the small-scale units to grow. If there is any misuse or abuse, definitely action will be tak©n against such companies.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: How do you prevent? In the gamut of the law how do you prevent MRTP companies from utilizing this?

MR. CHAIRMAN: If there is any abuse the Government will take step*.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE; The Government does not consider that to be abuse. I say that when the MRTP companies utilize these concessions, it is an abuse. If the Government agrees to it, what preventive steps are they going to take' That is the question.

SHRI IANARDHAN POOJARI: Sir. r.s the honourable Member knows, unless a specific instance is brought to our notice, wherever there is a violation . . .

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERrEE: There is a report published by the Indian Institute of Public Administration.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Wherever there has been violation action has been taken and we are gamp to take action *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You send the report 'o him. You say something which he does not know. What is the point?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, I must admit that the latest action of the Government in raising the exemption limit has great helped the small-scale industries, but what I would likt ta say is that the small-scale industries making harvester combines in Punjab have not been benefited by this because of the escalation in the cost of raw materials. I would like to know from the honourable M.lister as tr what steps are being taken to ameliorate their lot.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Sir, we have already given the benefits to small scale industries and small-scale units arc very happy. If there are any grievances, we are looking into them. We are open for a discussion also.